

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on April 24, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 12-21 and 53-68 were pending, where claims 12-21, 53,54,57,58 and 64 were rejected and 55, 56 and 59-63 were objected to.

RESPONSE TO PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Office Action reports that claims 12-18, 20, 21, 53, 54, 57, 58 and 64 were rejected as being anticipated by Landolt et al. (US 4,257,201). Of these claims, claims 12 and 64 are independent. Applicant has amended claims 12 and 64 in a manner believed to patentably distinguish the present invention from this reference.

As amended, claim 12 recites a gantry support structure comprising an elongated damping structure comprising a plurality of overlapping elongated segments forming at least a portion of a housing. Overlapping segments proximate each other are joined together with a damping material disposed therebetween to define a corresponding fastening region. In addition, adjacent fastening regions are spaced apart from each other along a cross-section of the housing taken transversally with respect to elongation of the overlapping segments, where the fastening regions are disposed substantially along the length of the corresponding opposed overlapping elongated segments and have lengths substantially the same as the lengths of the corresponding opposed overlapping elongated segments.

The additional language has been added in response to comments made in the Office Action (top of page 5) in response to Applicant's last amendment. The fastening regions do have lengths substantially the same as the elongated segments. Landolt et al. do not teach or suggest this structure. Landolt et al. are cited for disclosing overlapping segments 20, 19 and 34 that are joined

with a damping material 112 disposed therebetween to define a corresponding fastening region. Fastening regions 108 are spaced-apart from each other along a cross-section of the housing taken transversally with respect to elongation of the overlapping segment, but do not have lengths substantially the same as the length of the segments in contrast to the present invention. Reference is made to figures 2, 3, 4 and 6 of Landolt et al.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claim 12. Claims 53 and 54 have been amended to recite further features of the present invention. Dependent claims 13-21 and 53-63 depend directly or indirectly from claim 12 and are believed separately allowable.

Similar amendments have been made to independent claim 64 as those made in claim 12, and for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 12, claim 64 is also believed allowable. With this amendment, applicant has added dependent claim 69. When combined with the features recited in claims 64 and 65, this dependent claim is believed allowable.

The Office Action reports that claims 21, 55, 56 and 59-63 were allowable. Applicant respectfully acknowledges this indication of allowability; however, for the reasons discussed about it is believed that claim 12 is allowable as amended. In view of the remarks and amendments made herein, Applicants submit that claims 12-21 and 53-69 are allowable. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION AND DRAWING

At lines 3-5 on page 5 of the Office Action, it is reported that the figures may not show the feature of the fastening regions extending along the length of the assembly. In response, submitted herewith is a replacement sheet for FIG. 9, where the fastening regions 80 and 82 are illustrated in dashed

lines. Support for this drawing correction is found at least on page 9, lines 13-15 of the specification. Applicant has amended the specification at this location to include a reference to FIG. 9. Approval of the replacement figure and the amended specification is respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement providing information of events that occurred before the filing of the provisional application that the present application claims the benefit of. For at least the reason that the passive damping invention of the present application was not known if it would work, it is respectfully believed no on sale bar can exist.

An extension of time is hereby requested for responding to the Office Action. A charge authorization for the extension of time fee is included herewith.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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